Box by Ship "Parliament".
Addressed to you. G. B. St. Dublin.

Boston, Mass^tts, Feb. 27. 1853.

Dear Mr. Webb,

By the first of Train's packet ships which ~~shall~~ sail for Liverpool, we shall forward to you our Annual box. It has been delayed, by the delay in getting out the Annual Report, in an Appendix of which we publish Wendell Phillips's Speech at the recent Ann^l. Meeting of our State Society; — we think no small thing of that Speech by the way, and the Penn^a. Freeman says it is the best speech of his they have ever published. We shall probably send you some hundreds for distribution. — I duly rec^d. yours of Nov. 26, last, and your note, by Mr. Gay, of Jan. 28 — to which last I replied more than a week since, in a note ~~sent under~~ enclosed to Mr. Estlin. I sent you therein a complete list, up to that time, of the Subscribers hereabouts to the Advocate — a paper which pleases us all very much indeed. All the subscribers however do not receive their papers*. Mr. Wallcut has received none of his six copies until your 5th. No. (for February.) If it would be possible for you to make his sets complete from the beginning, (or as near it as possible) I wish you would, as his copies lose much of their value, for sale, by not being complete. Edmund Jackson & Samuel Philbrick, also, had received none, except what I had furnished from extra copies sent me. It is not so important however to supply back numbers to them, as I think they would not keep a file. — I also wrote you that I had received, or should receive, 75 cts. from each ~~Copy~~ Subscriber, for ~~every~~ each copy he took, viz. 22 in all, × 75 gives $16.50, or about £3. 8. 9, if I reckon it correctly, which sum I am ready to remit or pay in any way you shall say. ~~It~~ I can very easily send it ~~here~~ to you in a Bill or Draft. For the accommodation of emigrants, Train & Co are continually drawing small bills, as low as £1. stg.

* I should fear that the difficulty might have arisen, which you suggested in yours of Nov. last, ~~that the~~ as to whether the 'Advocate' was a pamphlet or an unstamped paper, and your Post Office (or the Liverpool Office) refused to forward them — if it were not that the papers of at least half the subscribers (perhaps more) have come regularly.

upon their Liverpool house. —

I handed to Mr. Wallcut the names of Joshua Sharratts, and of Rebecca Walton, as subscribers for Liberator. — Mr. W. said the latter was not previously a subscriber for Libr, as you supposed. — I communicated your request, about the vols. of Bancrofts' U. States, to Miss Weston.

I do not remember whether I said any thing to you, in my note, of what Mr. Garrison said ~~of his writing~~ as to your suggestion that he should write to Mr. Chesson. I read to him what you said on that point. He seemed loth to write to Mr. C. then, 1st As Mr. C. is an entire stranger to him, and 2d. Because in any event he would prefer to wait awhile, & see ~~how th~~ what the B. & F. A.S. Reporter has to say for itself for some numbers to come. What a singular name is that of its new Editor! did Mr. Estlin ~~get~~ give it to me correctly? but of course he did, he is so exact — Chamerovzow!

Mrs. Stowe's new book, "Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin" — which will be out in a week or two — will of course be reprinted in England. It will supersede the necessity of re-printing T. D. Weld's "Slavery as it is", I presume. — I was much pleased with the "Poetical Instructor — Part 2d". If you have a chance of sending 50 copies, at a moderate cost, to R. F. Wallcut, we should be glad of them. It ~~was~~ is a very good Collection — evincing good feeling, taste, & judgment.

You particularly desired to know what duties we paid on the Dublin boxes (for the Bazaar.) I am happy to be able to give you exact information on the subject, for I had the whole charge, this year, of the Custom House business, & paid all the duties. I said everything that I deemed it right and prudent to say to the Appraisers to have the appraisal made low. I was treated with unexceptionable courtesy — found a visible change in the tone of feeling among the C. H. officers — and on the whole cannot complain of the general result; as we got more, & ~~more~~ quite as valuable, goods thro' this year, and for less duties, than in any previous years for five or six years past.

I must not forget to tell you of Mr. Estlin's generous donations, through my hands, viz. To Capt. Drayton, £5. — to Liberator £10 — to Natl. A.S. Standard, £5. — to Penna. Freeman, £5. — to Bugle, £5. In all, £30.

The Dublin boxes were got thro' at a lower rate than any other; the entire duties on the 3 boxes being but $22.10 (about £4.12.0). I had reason to think this was owing to the precise time & order of their entry; it happened on this wise — the box entered by us immediately before yours — a day or two previous — was the Manchester box, not a very large one, yet a handsome & valuable one. The Appraiser was in the mood of giving it a pretty thorough overhauling, and he brought so many pretty things to light that he appraised it at £15. Now this was (relatively) very high; for the Leeds box, quite as valuable & ~~no~~ larger, had been appraised at £10.; and the Bristol box — from 3 to 4 times as large, & ~~of~~ of corresponding value, was appraised at no more than £15. There was however nothing to be said, and I paid duties on the Manchester box, $22.10. A day or two after, I entered the 3 Dublin boxes, & went to see the Appraiser, & told him we had all felt his appraisal of the Manchr. box quite disproportionate; & quite too high; and it would prove a sore drain on our funds, to go on paying duties at that rate, and begged him to be as moderate as possible with your boxes. — He expressed some regret that the previous appraisal had not been 'satisfactory', seemed very good-natured, and I left him. The next day, when he told me he had called all the three boxes from Dublin but £15., — or £5. each! — you may believe I was pleased, — & so surprised, too, that I must have shown it in my face. However I made the best of it, & paid, as before said, the duty of $22.10, the same on your 3 boxes as on the 1 Manchester. Much was ~~doubtless~~ unquestionably owing to the judicious packing. — Our entire duties, this Bazaar, were about $250; usually they have been $300. and upwards. — ~~N.B.~~ All this C. House matter you will please keep very private — perhaps had better burn this letter. The amount of it is, they had it in their power to rob us (legally) considerably more than they did — & partly perhaps from good-nature, & partly from other causes, spared us, to the extent of at least $100., according to the ratio of other years. — I didn't feel bound to urge them to receive any more — especially as I hated to pay them a single dollar. —

Our Bazaar was a very encouraging one — especially compared with that of the previous year:

e.g. 1851-52 –	Total Receipts	3025.00	Expenses $400.–	Net, about $1900.	A difference of about $1400. in favour of this year.
1852-53 –	" "	4050.00	" 750.–	" " 3300.	

This fact you may make any use of you please.

You gave my 'Johnson to Verplanck' letter quite a marked introduction to your readers. It is a telling letter, is it not? I cannot but honour a man, who will come forward so manfully, & ~~[illegible]~~ own up.

I cannot but repeat my sense of the important service the 'Advocate' is rendering to the cause. Its facts, statistics, arguments — presented so clearly and so convincingly — so thoroughly substantiated, and of such a fearful character — must convince, arouse, & enlighten, — wherever minds can be reached of a manly, candi & dispassionate character. The cause is deeply indebted to yourself, and to Mr. and Miss Estlin, and your co-laborers. Indeed, it is more & more evident, that your nation is to be one of the most important battle-fields in this Contest with American Slavery. And the tone of the London Times, of the British Army Gazette, & other subsidized presses, sho that the ground will be contested, inch by inch. — I deem it of great importance that the 'Advocate' should have a good circulation, & be sustained. I truly hope it will. — Our most sagacious friends here — Garrison, Jackson, Philbrick — incline to think the present attitude & course of the Broad St. Committee, & the Reporter, is a ruse, to stifle the Advocate, and stave off the issues it is fast raising. Not that they impute any hypocrisy to the new Editor, of whom we know nothing personally, and whom the B. St. Comtee may be very willing to use for a temporary purpose. They are old foxes, we know. —

Our 'Natl. A. S. Standard' will probably undergo a change soon, from which we hope a large addition to its support & means of usefulness. Oliver Johnson, now Ed. of the Pa. Freeman, is to ~~see~~ be associated with Mr. Gay, as Joint Editors; — the Office at New York is to be improved — if possible, enlarged — and a new impulse given, if possible, to all our operations. At least, negociations are now going on to these ends, — and are in a hopeful train. — We are going to try to hold ~~over~~ the Annual Meetg of the American Society in Brooklyn, ~~agai~~ near New York, this year (or perhaps in N.Y. itself.). B. is separated from N.Y. only by the Eas River, over which Ferry boats are continually passing, at a fare of one cent or a half-penny — and is, for all practical purposes, a part of New York. W. L. G. is opposed to it, and predicts another mob. His foresight and instinct has been pretty clear on ~~the~~ all antislavery matters. — W hope there will be no serious disturbance. Perhaps we can get no place, — in which case, we shall go to Syracuse, the City of Salt, and the City of Fugitive-Slave-Rescues.

A queer Countryman of yours has made 2 calls, this past week, at our A. S. office — h wished to see W. L. G., but has not yet succeeded. His name is "Rev. Wm. Scott Downey, B.D." Author of certain "Proverbs". He shows letters to himself, having the Queen's Seal, Prince Albert's Seal, Lord Derby &c. &c. — letters which he avers to be from those persons. He says he was a Baptist Missionary in Jamaica with Knibb, Phillippo, & others, in the time of the Apprenticeship. — He is now very deaf, — and his voice (in consequence I suppose) is cracked & shrill, & not under his control. I cannot think him insane, by any means; but climate, or disease, appear to have affected his mind. He talks well (to us, at least) about Slavery, but he preac for pro-slavery people, & don't appear to understand the inconsistency, &c. He ~~has~~ wears the brim of his hat tied up in an o way behind, and wears the clerical bands around his neck — not usual here. He preached last Sunday in one of our 'colored' Churches. Did you ever hear of him? The Queen's letter was sent to him at Cork — contents unknow

I am, Dear Mr. Webb, Truly & respectfully Yours, Saml. May.

Ms. B.1.6 11 A. p. 59

the subscribers (perhaps more) have come regularly.